

## ***Garage Sale Gal*** **THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC**



### ***Garage Saling on a whole new level***

***By Lynda Hammond***

When Steve Segner goes to a garage sale he doesn't pinch pennies. "Like that table over there. I paid \$1200 for it. But it's a Stickley so it was a real deal."

Steve owns and operates a quaint and cozy adobe-style hotel in Sedona with his wife, Connie. It may be a small place, with only 12 rooms, but it's extremely well appointed with top-notch furnishings and accessories. I could tell, however, these things—with their unique patina and historic character-- couldn't be recent store purchases. There was clearly more adventure involved in acquiring these treasures.

My husband and I went to Sedona for a bit of hiking, relaxation and yes, garage saling. I chose the El Portal Hotel at random not knowing the owner was an avid garage saler.

I sauntered into the hotel lobby with its stone fireplace and interesting accessories just before dawn in search of my first cup of coffee when I spotted Steve reading the paper. I just had to know. "Do you garage sale?" "Oh yes. Just about everything you see in this hotel comes from garage sales and flea markets," he told me enthusiastically. I knew it!

We shared stories of our favorite finds—mine is a 7 foot tall iron candelabra I got at a garage sale in Scottsdale for \$10. Steve's favorite finds involve more money..a lot more. He knows quality when he sees it and isn't afraid to spend hundreds, sometimes thousands, on rare finds.

The native Californian has worked long hours in various ventures—including the newspaper and pet food industries-- but would always make time to go to garage sales. He bought so much, in fact, he had to buy a warehouse in which to store everything. "We collect and collect. And friends would come over to the house and say 'You know, you have 14 lamps in your living room' So, we had our stuff everywhere."

Five years ago, the couple built the inn which became a perfect place to showcase the finds. Each room is unique and displays one-of-a-kind furnishings, such as the antique, white iron canopy bed in room 3 and the wood furniture painted bright red in room 6. "One thing about garage sales: you see it, you like it, you get it. You don't screw around and go home and think about it. There's no time."

Steve loves things from the turn-of-the-century. He's always had an interest in early 1900s furnishings and decor, so it's easy for him to choose quality items at a garage sale. He says the experience in antiques gives him an edge. "It's always good to have the knowledge when others don't. That's when

you get the really good deals.”

Most of us don't have a couple thousand dollars to spend on garage sale finds. But never fear. No matter what your budget you can get a great deal at a garage sale. Spend a buck a buck or two and if you love it, well then, it's priceless.

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### MY FAVORITE FIND

(Photo: by Lynda Hammond)



Steve Segner, owner of El Portal hotel in Sedona, stands beside one of his favorite garage sale finds. It's a 1920s iron floor lamp with the original fabric shade. He found it 15 years ago at an old, Spanish-style mansion in the Los Feliz neighborhood of Los Angeles. He paid about \$80 for it. "The second I saw it I knew I had to have it."

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Do you have a garage sale find you love? Something that makes you smile when you look at it? Share it with us. Send us your picture. Include your name, email address and phone number and email it to: [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Watch for the story of *your* treasure in this column!

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*Lynda Hammond is a former television anchor who left the anchor desk for the love of garage sales. Contact her at [Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com](mailto:Lynda@GarageSaleGal.com). Lynda also does garage sale segments on 3-TV's Good Morning Arizona.*

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